

The background of the slide features a collage of images. On the left, a young man in a light orange shirt sits with his head in his hand, looking distressed. To his right, a group of four young people (two women and two men) are shown from the chest up, looking towards the camera with neutral to slightly concerned expressions. In the bottom right corner, a young woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, resting her head on her hand and looking down, appearing to be in deep thought or sadness.

Homeless but Not Hopeless: The Faith Community Engaging Transition Age Youth in South Los Angeles

Presentation to the Children and Families Commission

January 13, 2014



Our mission is to prevent and end youth homelessness in the South Los Angeles region.

Presenters

- **Pastor Kelvin Sauls**
 - Board of Directors President, South L.A. TAY Collaborative
 - Senior Pastor, Holman United Methodist Church
 - Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Commissioner
- **Gerald Thompson**
 - Executive Director, South L.A. TAY Collaborative
 - Founder, Pathways to Your Future
- **Janet Kelly**
 - Board of Directors Treasurer
 - Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- **Ericka Bernard**
 - TAY Presenter
- **Grace Weltman**
 - Consultant, South L.A. TAY Collaborative
 - President, Communities in Motion

Presentation Agenda

- Purpose and Priorities of the Collaborative
- State of Homeless TAY and Foster Care Youth Homelessness in South L.A.
 - Data
 - Profile of Homeless TAY & Foster Care Youth
- Partnering & Engaging the Community
- Partnering with the Children's Commission on Policy and System Changes
- Questions and Comments

Purpose of the Collaborative

*The mission of the Homeless TAY
and Foster Care Youth
Collaborative is to prevent and
end youth homelessness in the
South Los Angeles region.*



Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors

- **Board President, Pastor Kelvin Sauls**
 - Senior Pastor, Holman United Methodist Church
 - Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Commissioner
- **Board Treasurer, Janet Kelly**
 - Founder & Executive Director, Sanctuary of Hope
- **Board Secretary, Kandee Lewis**
 - Executive Director, Positive Results Corporation
- **Board Member, Rev. Deborah Manns**
 - Executive Director, The Virtuous Woman Ministry
- **Board Member, Franco Vega**
 - Executive Director & Founder, The Right Way Foundation

Staff

- **Executive Director Gerald Thompson**
 - Founder, Pathways to Your Future

Consultant

Grace Weltman

- President, Communities in Motion



Priorities of the Collaborative

Involves a variety of Faith-based leaders, community agencies, service providers, youth, and other stakeholders

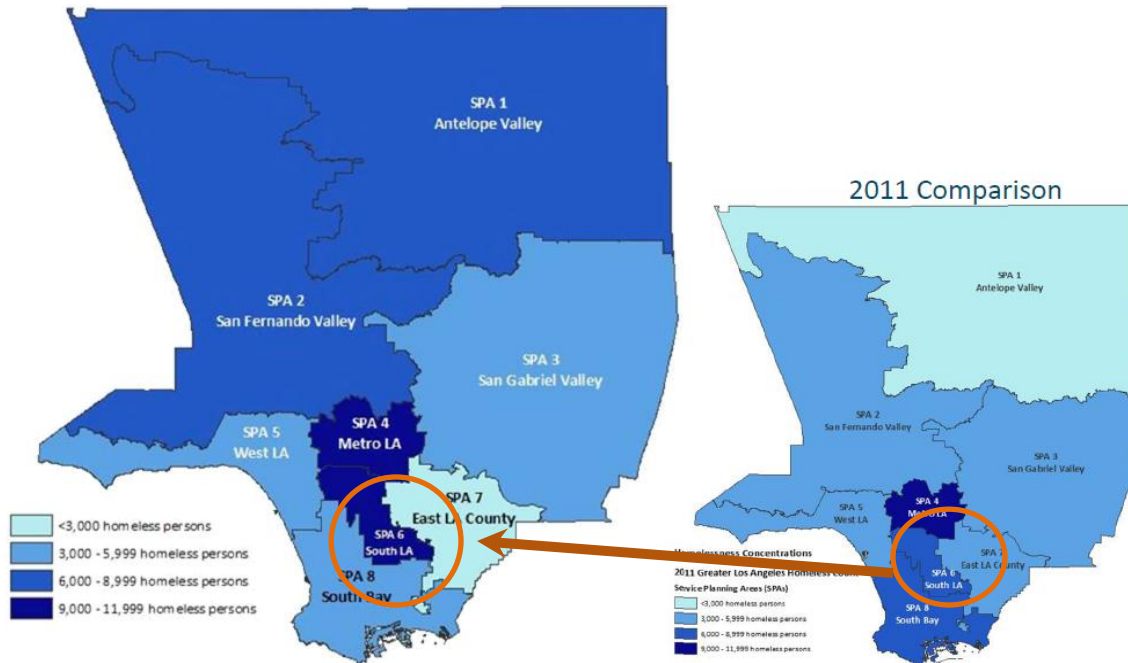
- Increase the leadership, resilience, & transparency
- Influence & inform public policy & delivery systems
- Raise awareness and increase community knowledge
- Mobilize the Faith-based & the broader community
- Coordinate resources & services
- Foster accountability-service providers, government, & community

State of Youth Homelessness-Data

2013 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Key Findings – Service Planning Areas Homelessness Population Totals



LAHSA



Excludes cities of Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale

11

- Increase in homelessness since 2011
- According to the 2013 LAHSA Point in Time Count, of the 53,798 homeless persons in Los Angeles County, 11,234 (20%) are in SPA 6 (South Los Angeles).
- 17% of the total no. of homeless persons in SPA 6 are under the age of 24.
- Many homeless youth in other regions throughout L.A. County are originally from South L.A.
- Lack of coordinated and available data and patterns of youth who access multiple systems and services.

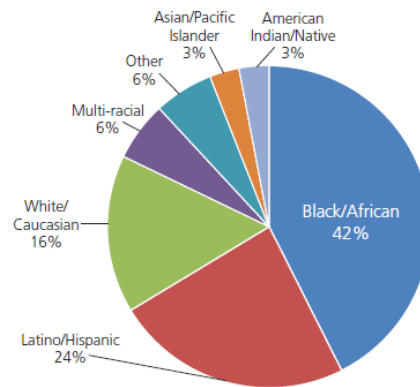
State of Youth Homelessness-Data

Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership 2011 Study

“No Way Home”



Figure 1. Race and Ethnic Breakdown of Youth (n=386)



- 42% of youth indicated that they were Black
- 24% Latino
- A large number of homeless youth in Hollywood were originally from South Los Angeles.
- Nearly half were involved with Child Protective Services
- 69% involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system.



State of Youth Homelessness-Data

Conrad Hilton Foundation 2011 Sponsored Study

“Young Adult Outcomes of Youth Exiting Dependent or Delinquent Care in Los Angeles County”

Study Focused on two cohorts of youth who exited from an out-of-home child welfare (CW) placement and/or juvenile probation (JP) supervision: those who exited at any point during 2002.

Table 2 – Demographic Characteristics of Youth Exiters, by exit cohort

	2002 Exit Cohort			2004 Exit Cohort		
	JP Exiter	CW Exiters	Crossover Youth	JP Exiter	CW Exiters	Crossover Youth
N	8368	2388	268	8855	2300	330
Gender (%)						
Female	20.2	59.5	35.4	20.7	57.9	36.7
Male	79.8	37.9	64.6	79.3	39.0	63.3
Missing	--	2.6	--	--	3.1	--
Age at Entry (mean)	16.2	12.2	12.3	16.1	11.6	11.2
Age at Exit (mean)	18.2	18.2	17.7	18.1	18.2	17.8
Race/Ethnicity (%)						
White	13.0	15.5	13.1	13.3	13.6	12.1
Black	23.9	42.5	55.6	24.1	43.4	52.1
Hispanic	56.9	35.8	28.0	57.0	36.7	32.7
Other	6.2	6.2	3.4	--	6.3	3.0

Homeless TAY and Foster Care Youth System Challenges for South Los Angeles

Risk Factors

- Child Protective Services
- Juvenile/Criminal History
- Mental Health/Trauma Due to Abuse
- Violence & Abuse
- Access to basic needs such as food and shelter
- Lack of education and educational resources
- Substance Abuse
- Unemployment
- Poverty



Homeless TAY and Foster Care Youth System Challenges for South Los Angeles

- Housing & Shelter
 - Lack of adequate housing and beds
 - Program eligibility requirements & rules creates access barriers
 - Available “crisis housing options”
- Supportive Services
 - Insufficient supportive services resources to help stably house TAY.
 - Difficult to access & navigate services
 - Services do not always reflect the cultural and distinct needs of youth in South Los Angeles
 - Lack of adequate prevention services



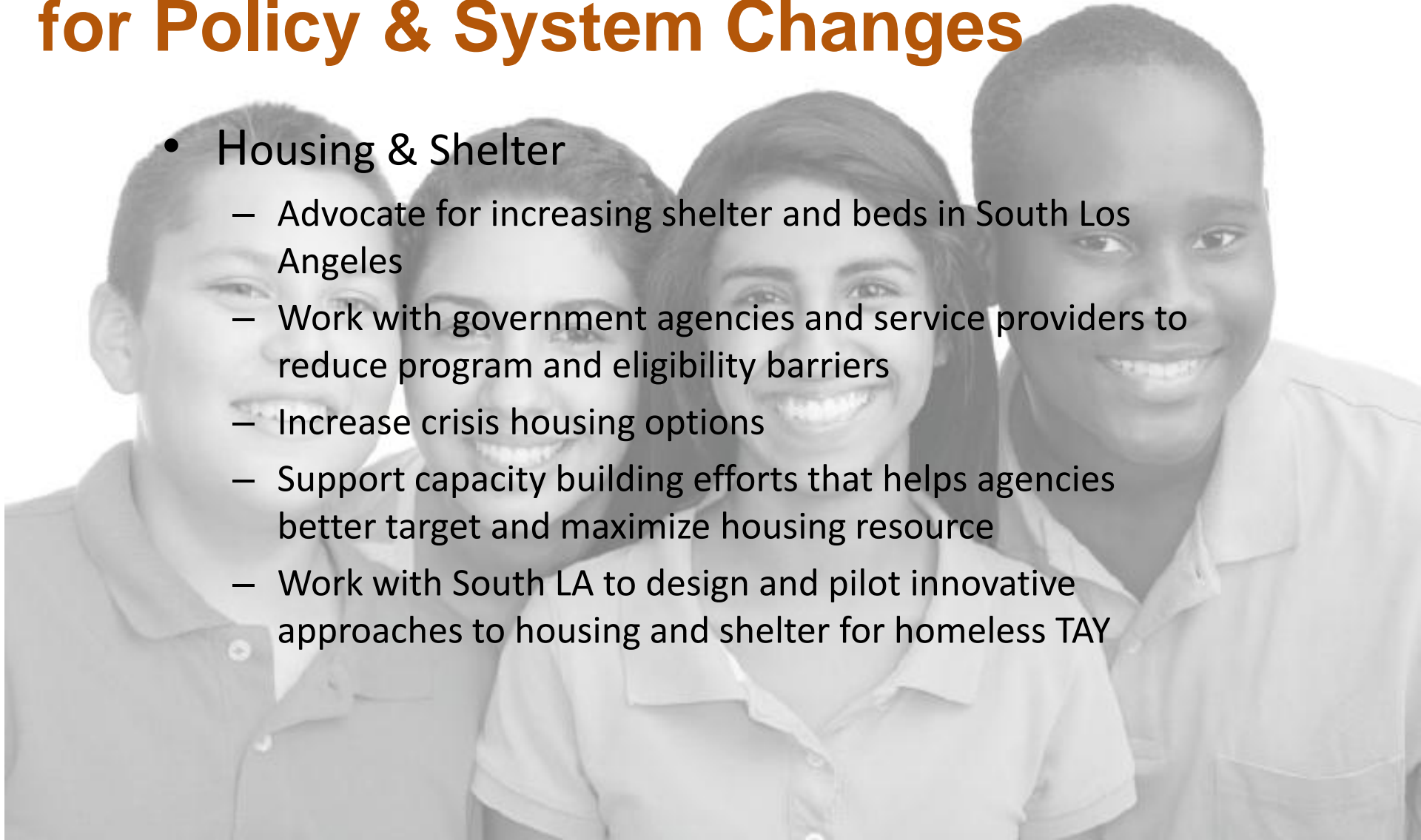
Homeless TAY and Foster Care Youth System Challenges for South Los Angeles

- Service and Information Coordination
 - Lack of an integrated approach to funding and services targeting TAY
 - Insufficient coordination & collaboration among the community, service providers, and government.
 - Lack of knowledge and awareness of homeless TAY challenges
 - Lack of coordination & resource to effectively build leadership and service capacity



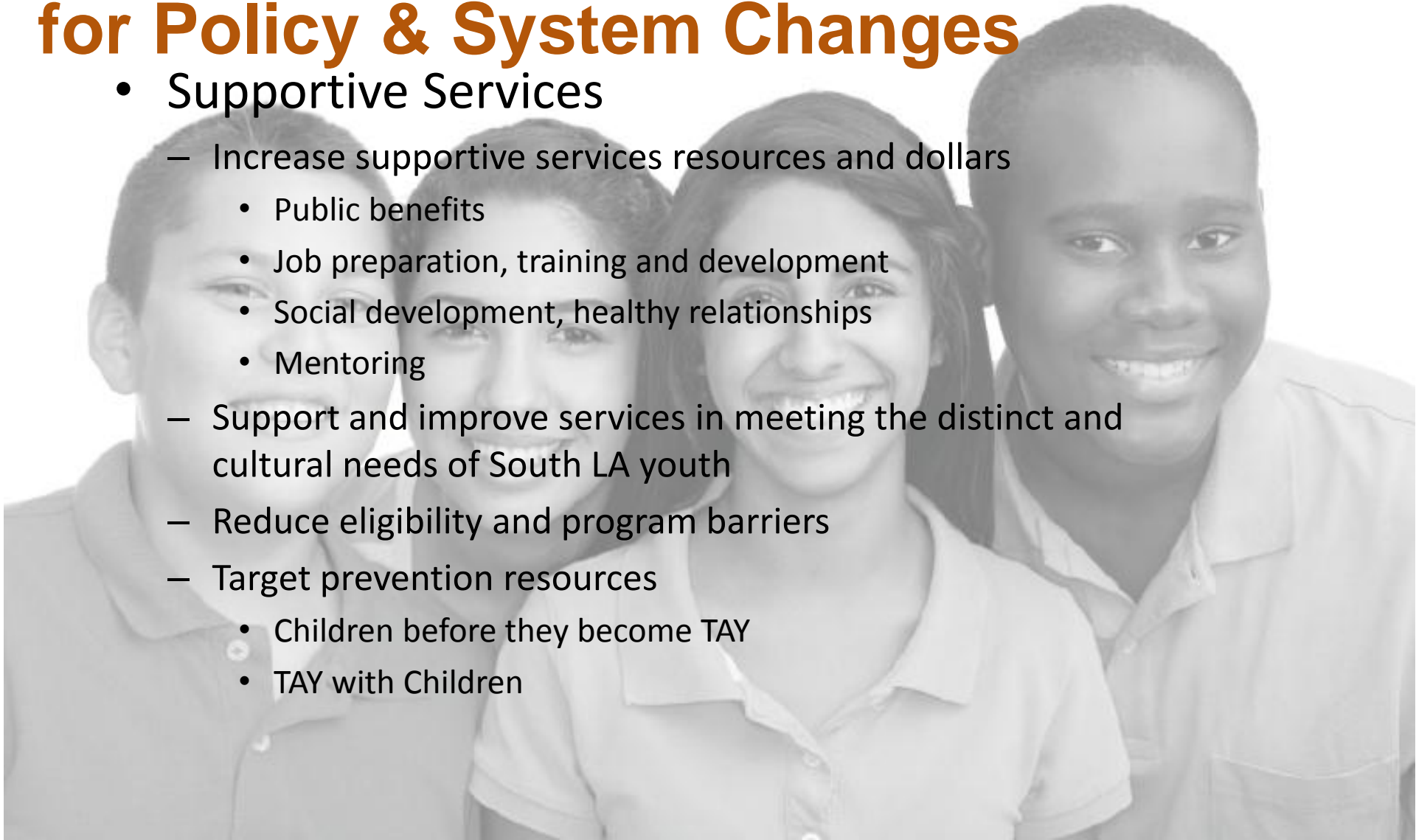
Partnering with the Commission for Policy & System Changes

- Housing & Shelter
 - Advocate for increasing shelter and beds in South Los Angeles
 - Work with government agencies and service providers to reduce program and eligibility barriers
 - Increase crisis housing options
 - Support capacity building efforts that helps agencies better target and maximize housing resource
 - Work with South LA to design and pilot innovative approaches to housing and shelter for homeless TAY



Partnering with the Commission for Policy & System Changes

- Supportive Services
 - Increase supportive services resources and dollars
 - Public benefits
 - Job preparation, training and development
 - Social development, healthy relationships
 - Mentoring
 - Support and improve services in meeting the distinct and cultural needs of South LA youth
 - Reduce eligibility and program barriers
 - Target prevention resources
 - Children before they become TAY
 - TAY with Children



Partnering with the Commission for Policy & System Changes

- Service and Information Coordination
 - Focus DCFS prevention resources and dollars on children who are at risk of becoming homeless before they become a TAY.
 - Advocate for and support the use of prevention dollars and resources to increase the knowledge and leadership of the Faith-based community.
 - Involve community leaders and agencies in improving system coordination and strategic planning for children and families.
 - Prioritize and support the coordination of data collection and tracking of homeless TAY across the County of Los Angeles.
 - Support and participate in The Collaborative's community resource and planning efforts.

Partnering & Engaging the Community

- Transition Age Youth
- Faith-based community leaders and nonprofits
- Community nonprofit organizations
- Business and broader community
- Education agencies and schools
- Government agencies
- Coordinating resources among service providers and community agencies



Questions and Comments

www.southlatay.org
info@southlatay.org



Our mission is to prevent and end youth homelessness in the South Los Angeles region.